

US64 ASHEBORO BYPASS

North Carolina Department of Transportation
Project Development & Environmental Analysis Branch
P.O. Box 25201
Raleigh, NC 27611-5210



Transportation Improvement Program
No. R-2536

June 2000

Issue No. 3

Check out the New US 64 Website!

Our new website provides up to date information regarding the US 64 Asheboro Bypass Project. It is located at:

www.doh.dot.state.nc.us/projects/asheboro/

The website contains a variety of information relating to the project. Features you will find on the website include:

Home

The *Home* page describes the purpose and need for the project.

Contacts

If you would like to *Contact* any of the team members, the Hotline toll-free phone number is posted. Postal and email addresses are listed for the NCDOT Project Planning Engineer and the Earth Tech Project Manager.

Meetings

Summaries of the two Citizens Informational Workshops are under *Meetings*. The date of the next Citizens Informational Workshop will be listed here.

Schedule

You can view the current schedule of the project on the *Schedule* page.

Newsletters

To see copies of previous newsletters, go to *Newsletters*.

FAQs

People often ask similar questions relating to the project. These Frequently Asked Questions are answered on the *FAQs* page.

Maps

Several different *Maps* are available regarding the project. The Index Map shows all nine Detailed Study Alternatives. You can view each alternative by itself, or zoom in to an area to see more detailed information, including street names and parcel outlines.

Study Process

The *Study Process* lists the eight steps involved in the Environmental Study Process.

Related Links

Links to the NCDOT, the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Highway Administration's Planning and Environment Page, the Asheboro/Randolph Chamber of Commerce or the North Carolina Zoo are available on the *Related Links* page.

Summary of Second Workshop

The second Citizens Informational Workshop was held on June 17, 1999, from 4:00 to 8:00 pm at the Randolph County Office Building, McDowell Road, Asheboro. The workshop was an open-house format, with study team members available to discuss the project with citizens one-on-one.

Project displays included maps and one large aerial photograph. The nine alternatives proposed for detailed study were shown on each display.

A short slide show was presented in a separate room. It explained the purpose and need for the project, the environmental study process, and the public involvement program.

Comment sheets were available for attendees to write their comments. Approximately 450 people attended the workshop.

Approximately 28 comments were received during and after the workshop. Issues of concern raised in the comments included the time it takes to complete the study process, residential relocations, impacts to retirement homes, potential increased commercial development on the east end of the project, and the number of interchanges. Two commentors thought the project should end further east and west of Asheboro. All comments received were considered in the selection of the detailed study alternatives and will be taken into account in the draft environmental document.



Scenes from the second Citizens Informational Workshop.

How Does the Process Work?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires any federal agency undertaking an action using federal funds to evaluate the adverse and beneficial impacts of that action on the human and natural environments. This NEPA process is divided into six steps, as indicated in the chart below.

- | | | | |
|---------------|--|---------------|---|
| Step 1 | Data collection
Inventory of planning issues
Definition of study area
Preliminary corridor development | Step 4 | Draft environmental document
Third Citizens Informational Workshop |
| Step 2 | First Citizens Informational Workshop
Documentation of community concerns
Field studies
Identification of preliminary corridors
Second Citizens Informational Workshop
Selection of alternatives for detailed study | Step 5 | Corridor Public Hearing |
| Step 3 | Engineering studies
Detailed field studies
Environmental analyses | Step 6 | Review comments on draft environmental document
Review public hearing transcript
Select the preferred alternative |
| | | Step 7 | Intensive studies on preferred alternative
Preliminary engineering design plans
Final environmental document |
| | | Step 8 | Design Public Hearing |



The Asheboro Bypass project is in Step 3.

Current Studies

Nine alternatives proposed for detailed study in the draft environmental document were presented for review and comment at the last Citizens Informational Workshop (held June 17, 1999). Based on the analyses conducted up to that point, and input received from agencies and the public, the NCDOT has determined that all nine proposed detailed study alternatives (with one expanded area) will be carried forward in the process.

An expanded area surrounding the detailed study alternatives near NC 159 (NC Zoo Parkway) was included based on input received at the June 17, 1999 Citizens Informational Workshop. This expansion will provide flexibility for avoiding and minimizing impacts to surrounding land uses. The area is located northeast and southwest of NC 169 (Zoo Parkway), between Pine Hill Road and the proposed location of the NC Zoo connector, as shown by the gray stippled area below.

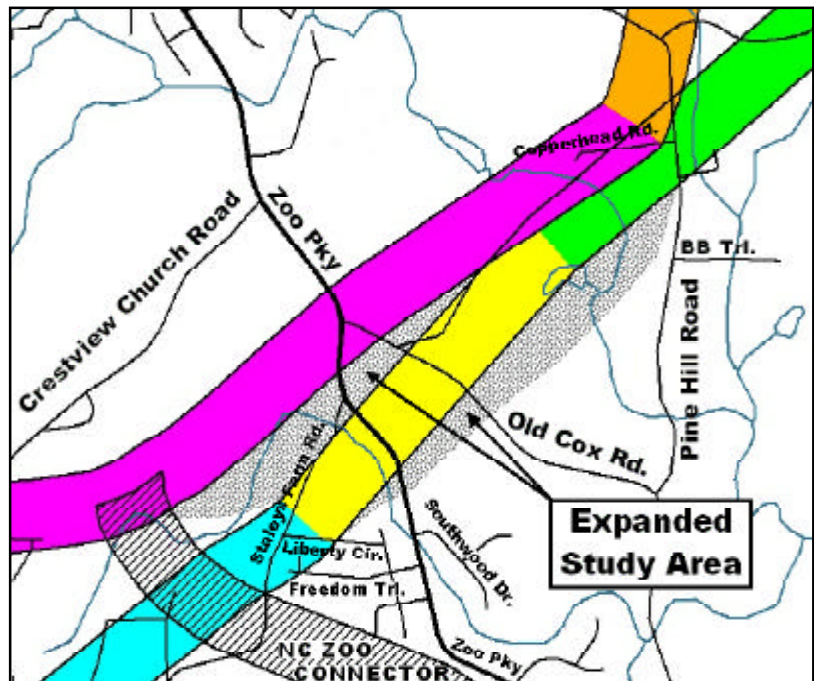
Preliminary engineering designs and environmental studies are now underway on each of the nine detailed study alternatives.

If you have any questions about survey activities on or near your property, please call the project hotline at **1-800-206-1373**.

Issues to be addressed include traffic, land use, farmland, socio-economic factors, residential/business relocations, environmental justice, air quality, noise, natural resources (wetlands, streams, endangered species), hydraulics, floodplains, archaeological resources, historic resources, hazardous substances/underground storage tanks, visual impacts, and construction impacts.

Biologists, engineers, and planners will be in the project area over the next year conducting intensive surveys within and around the boundaries of the detailed study alternatives. This field work will include surveys for protected plant and animal species, wetlands, streams, noise, and housing impacts.

Now that Detailed Study Alternatives have been identified, studies addressing traffic, land use, socio-economic factors, and natural and cultural resources are underway.



Contacts for US 64 Project Questions or Comments

Questions and comments regarding the US 64 Improvements may be directed to either of the following:

Mr. John Conforti

Project Engineer
Project Development and
Environmental Analysis Branch
North Carolina Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 25201
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

Mr Ron Hairr

Project Manager
Earth Tech
701 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 475
Raleigh, North Carolina 27607-5074



Hotline: 800-206-1373

Earth Tech
701 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 475
Raleigh, NC 27607

Inside this issue: Surf to the US 64 Website • Second Workshop Summary • Current Studies

Mailing List Information

A computerized mailing list of persons interested in the proposed project is continually updated for newsletters, informational workshops, and announcements. If you are not on the mailing list and would like to receive newsletters and other informative notices for this project, call the project hotline at **1-800-206-1373** or complete the form below. Clip and mail to the address on the right.

Mr. Ron Hairr
Project Manager
Earth Tech
701 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 475
Raleigh, NC 27607-5074

(Please print)	
Name:	
Address:	
City/State:	Zip Code:
Telephone Number:	Neighborhood Organization/Affiliation:
Comments:	